

MAYOR'S 2020 STATE OF THE TOWN

PRESENTING SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS

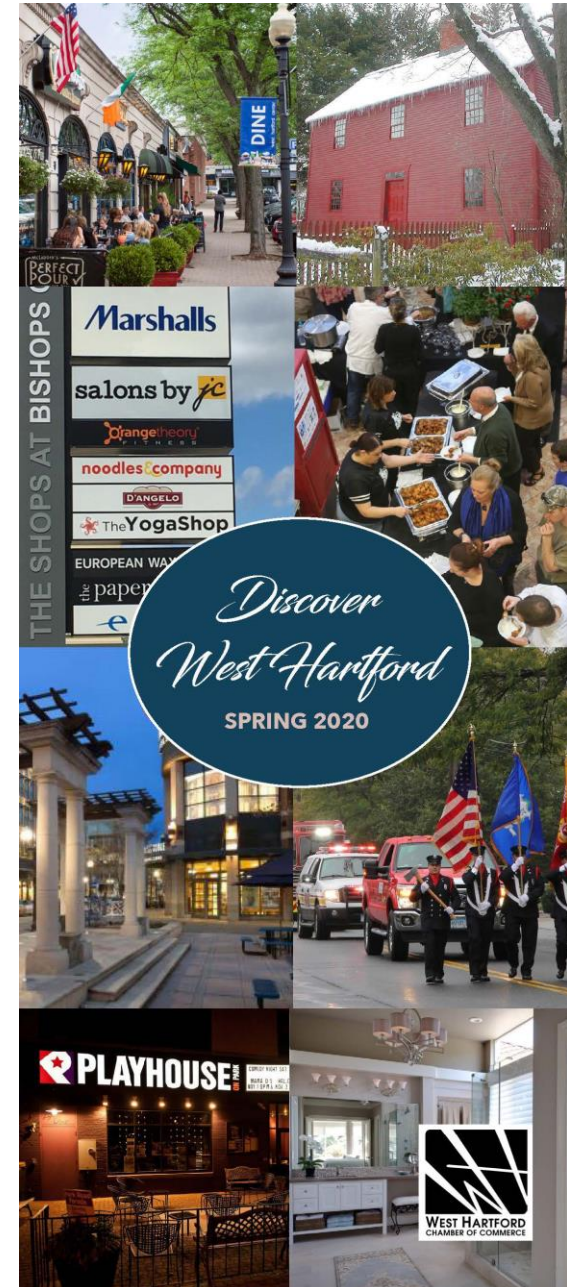


SILVER SPONSORS



DISCOVER WEST HARTFORD

Become a Chamber member and be included in this publication that will be distributed, Spring 2020





BOB KULAKOWSKI



CHAIRMAN



WEST HARTFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Your Community & Business Connection



STEVEN LITCHFIELD

Regional Vice President, Greater Hartford Market



Bank

STATE OF THE TOWN

Mayor Shari Cantor

January 28, 2020

West Hartford Chamber
of Commerce

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REFLECTIONS ON OUR PAST



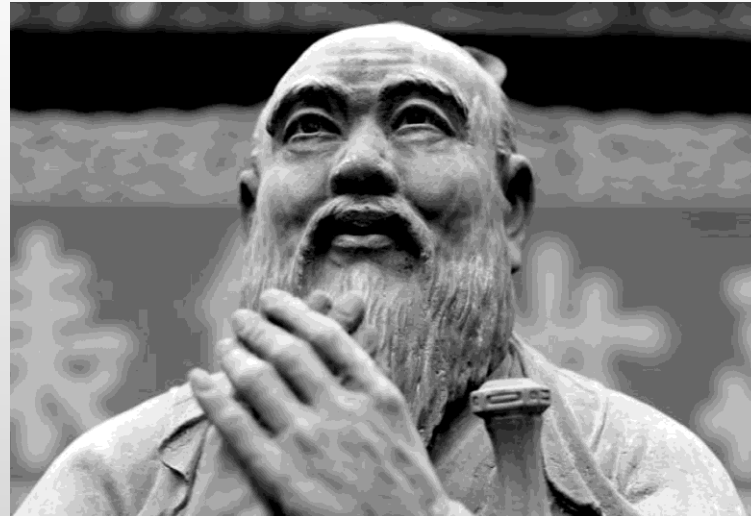
TIME



It is true that most people overestimate what they can accomplish in a year - and underestimate what they can achieve in a decade

CAPACITY FOR REFLECTION

Reflection: The most noble way
to learn wisdom



Confucius



100 YEARS AGO, 1920

- West Hartford population: 8,854
- Mill rate: 15
- Total town budget: \$410,791
- Education budget: \$122,495
- Grand List: \$21,432,479
- 3 police officers
- First Council/Manager form of government



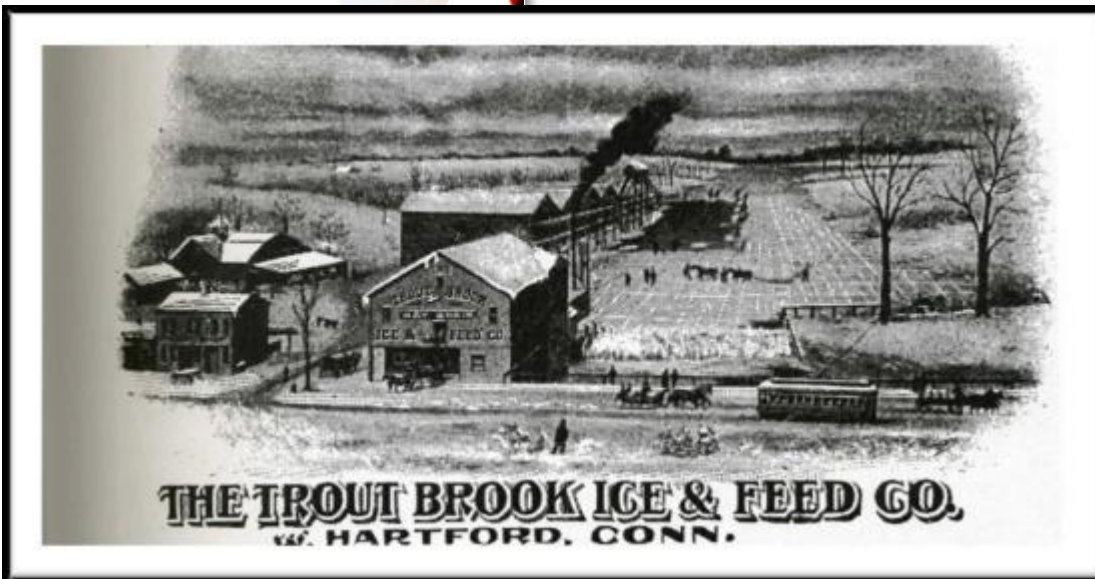
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100 YEARS AGO, 1920

Principal Industries:

- Milk, Tobacco farming, Market Gardening Specialties
- Extensive raising of flowers under glass
- Manufacture of brick, bent pipe, steel tempering, ball bearings, hardware novelties
- Ice stored for outside market



100 YEARS AGO, 1920



Prohibition:

- Jan 17, 1920, Prohibition began
- 18th amendment: "prohibiting intoxicating liquors"
- Resulted in bootlegging & organized crime
- Labeled as a failed 'noble experiment'
- 1933: 21st amendment withdrew Prohibition
- 100 years later: \$100 Billion industry

100 YEARS AGO, 1920

Nineteenth Amendment,
Women's Right to Vote



10 YEARS AGO

2009-2010

- iPhone4 introduced
- iPad #1 product
- Top movies: Toy Story 3, Blindside and Inception
- Twitter 4 years old
- Facebook 6 years old
- No SnapChat, Instagram, TikTok

2019-2020

- iPhone 12 with Notchless Display and Quad Camera
- Top Products: iRoomba, Air fryer, Apple watch, AirPods, Baby Shark Doll
- Top movies: Toy Story 4, 1917, Marriage Story, Joker, Captain Marvel, Two Popes
- Social media has taken over our lives

10-YEAR COMPARISON TAXES PAID



2010

Grand List increase: 28%

Budget increase: 28%

86% raised through
property taxes

Osage

2010 - \$7714

2019 - \$6624 ↓

St. Augustine

2010 - \$6586

2019 - \$5668 ↓

Foxcroft

2010 - \$15663

2019 - \$15976 ↓

Mountain Farms

2010 - \$16,231

2019 - \$13,966 ↓

Buena Vista

2010 - \$7718

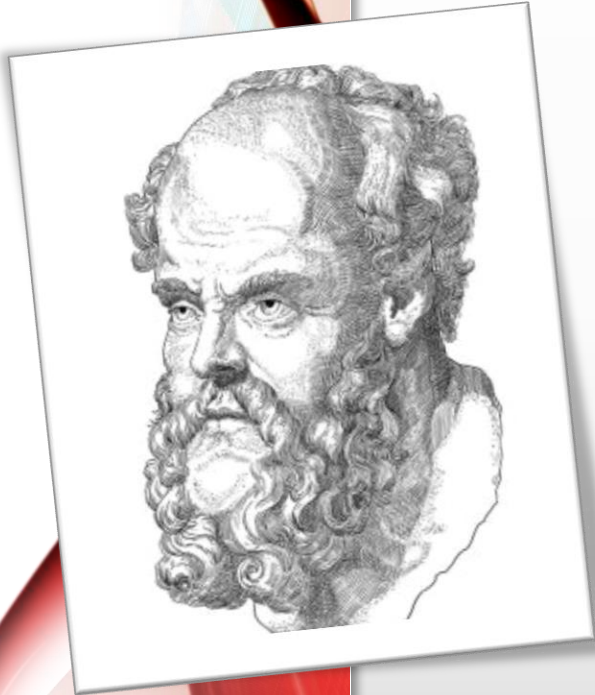
2019 - \$7368 ↓

Westminster

2010 - \$11,806

2019 - \$11,774 ↓

SOCIAL MEDIA



“The written word creates forgetfulness in the learners’ souls because they will not use their memories.”

Socrates



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Able to reach targeted audiences
- Less expensive than advertising
- New Media beholden to social media
- Powerful mass organizing tool
- Social Media information: True or Fake?

BUSINESS TRENDS





CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

Positives

- Strong defense and financial sectors
- State's unemployment rate is 3.5%

Challenges

- Stagnant population
- No lead city that is growing quickly
- Need to build worker skill sets to match employer needs



WAYS TO GROW CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

- Transportation
- Education & Workforce pipeline
- Strengthen Cities
- Fiscal Stability
- Action Steps



TARGETED INDUSTRIES

- Finance & Insurance
- Life Sciences and Bio-Sciences
- Manufacturing
- Technology



FASTEST GROWING SECTORS

- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Transportation & Warehousing
- Manufacturing
- Challenge: Unfilled Jobs & Retail



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MARKET OUTLOOK

- 1.5% to 2% growth rates
- 60-year low for unemployment
- Housing prices have rebounded
- Record hotel occupancy rates
- Introducing 4 new Sub-Markets



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REAL ESTATE

- Home sales up 2.6%; prices up .5%
- Interest rates – historic low levels
- Hartford region – Top 10 place for Millennials
- Baby Boomers downsizing
- Challenge: Desirability of living and working in Greater Hartford



TOP MARKET FOR BEST PAYING JOBS

- 4th Best paying locale in the country for Millennials
- Hartford region far better value
- Millennials paid \$10K more than national average
- Above average purchasing power



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TAXES & WEALTH IN CT

- Government expenditures – 2nd lowest of 50 states
- State corporate tax rates – 4th lowest of 50 state
- 17 Fortune 500 corporate headquarters; CT top 10 states
- Total Billionaires & Millionaires are up



CERC REPORT

- 4th in U.S. - Most innovative economy
- 4th in U.S. - Bioscience patents
- 4th in U.S. - Private R&D investment
- 2nd in U.S. - Internet connectivity
- 1st in U.S. - Insurance employees
- 4th in U.S. - Productivity of labor force



CERC REPORT

- 4th in U.S. - Productivity of labor force
- 8th in U.S. - Science & Engineering
- 7th in U.S. - Investment in workforce



INNOVATIVE

“I have one word for the State of Connecticut, that word is innovative.”

Congressman Jim Himes



WEST HARTFORD: ABOVE STATE AVERAGE

- Building permits: 6,069
- Tax collection rates: 99.3%
- Unemployment: 2.8%
- Fund Balance: 9.1%
- Home prices: \$315,000
- Stable population
- AAA bond rating
- Grand List growth



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**UConn
NATION**

EST.  1881



UConn-WEST HARTFORD CONNECTION

- \$5.3 billion added to economy
- 77 cents on a dollar = economic output
- West Hartford: most alumni, 5,745
- West Hartford: 2nd largest number residents employed by UConn



**UConn
NATION**

EST.  1881

UConn-WEST HARTFORD CONNECTION

- 3rd largest number of in-state students are from West Hartford
- 2nd highest UConn clinical visits for dental & medical are West Hartford residents
- UConn's \$5.3 billion impact

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS





OUR SCHOOLS

- 22% non-English, 74 languages
- 43% minority
- 25% free or reduced lunch
- 107th per pupil spending
- Unfair comparison by our DRG
- Big increase in number of special education students



OUR SCHOOLS

- Two Gold Medal winning High Schools
- 1 of 5 communities with A+ grade
- Conard & Hall, two of 18 schools in CT with A+ grade
- Most AP exams taken by our students

POLICE DEPARTMENT





POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Partners against crime
- Violent crime is down 31%
- 8 car break-ins; ALL were unlocked!
- New Auto Theft Task Force

FIRE DEPARTMENT





FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Improved personnel deployment
- Centralized all incident reporting
- Prioritize Emergency Management
- New Fire & EMS response model
- Now provide pre-hospital emergency services



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PUBLIC WORKS





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- Smarter tools to do same job
- Food Waste & Composting
 - Rockledge Grille
 - West Hartford Public Schools
- Stormwater Management

WEST HARTFORD LIBRARIES





WEST HARTFORD LIBRARIES

- Downloadable Electronic Material
- Public Use Computers
- WiFi access
- Bishops Corner renovation
- Future: explore circulating WiFi hotspots

LEISURE SERVICES





LEISURE SERVICES

- National 10 Minute Walk initiative
- Parks BINGO
- Renovated Courts
- RecDesk
- New catalog design



LEISURE SERVICES

Past Decade:

- Celebrate West Hartford
- Rockledge Golf Course
- Improved Accessibility at all parks

SOCIAL SERVICES





SOCIAL SERVICES

“Relief of distress or compassion shown to victims of misfortune. A blessing that is an act of Divine compassion.”

Noah Webster



SOCIAL SERVICES

Decade comparison:

- Food Bags distributed: up 75%
- Back to School program: up 67.3%
- Thanksgiving program: up 100.4%
- Children's Holiday event: up 115%



SOCIAL SERVICES

Challenges:

- Low paying jobs
- Health-related issues
- Limited education and job skills
- Reliance on Social Security
- Food insecurities

TOWN THAT CARES



Get your West Hartford lapel pin!
\$2 donation benefits the Town That Cares

TOWN CLERK





TOWN CLERK

In 2019:

- New electronic agenda system
- New Absentee Ballot system
- \$7500 grant
- Master Municipal Clerk status



TOWN CLERK

Last decade:

- Technology key to better service
- More access to records
- Improved efficiencies
- Improved accuracy

BEHIND THE SCENES





ASSESSMENT

- Modernize Mass Appraisal System
- Landmark tax appeal
- 2021 revaluation
- Outreach to residents 65+



PLANT & FACILITIES

- Reduction of electricity usage
- 14 new art and science labs
- Demolition of DPW incinerator
- New SustainableCT Community Match Fund



ENERGY CONSERVATION

- Lead by Example
- Town Hall solar array
- King Phillip solar array
- Nearly 20% reduction in electricity



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY





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- Focus on cyber security
- Building our own municipal fiber network
- More technology access to students
- Using technology to improve customer service
- Using technology to improve safety and security

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





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- Park Road/84 Interchange Project
- Plan of Conservation and Development
- Complete Streets Policy
- Economic Development



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ACCOLADES





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- AAA Bond Rating
- Best STEM High Schools in America
- Best Small Cities in America
- Most Educated Cities in America
- Best Place to Live in Connecticut
- Top 100 places to live in U.S.
- Great Place to Retire



ACCOLADES

- Best Cities for the Next Decade
- Top 10 Town for Families
- #1 Overall in Hartford region
- Top 500 High Schools in nation
- Top Challenging High Schools
- Healthiest Housing Market
- One of the Coolest Suburbs

HEADING INTO THE NEXT DECADE



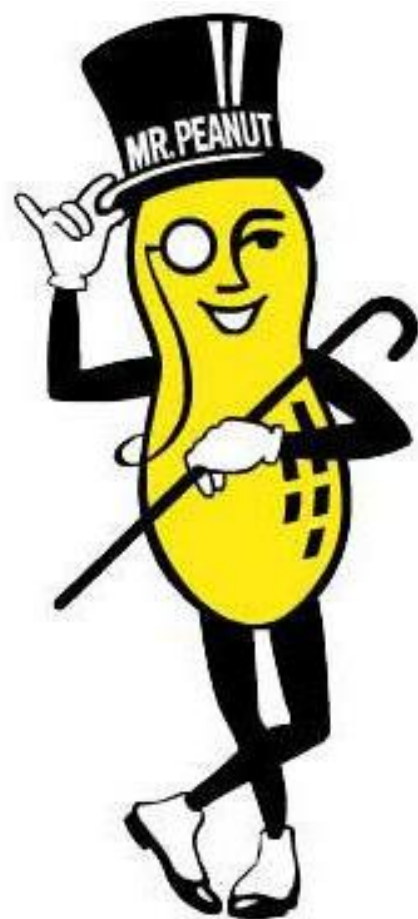


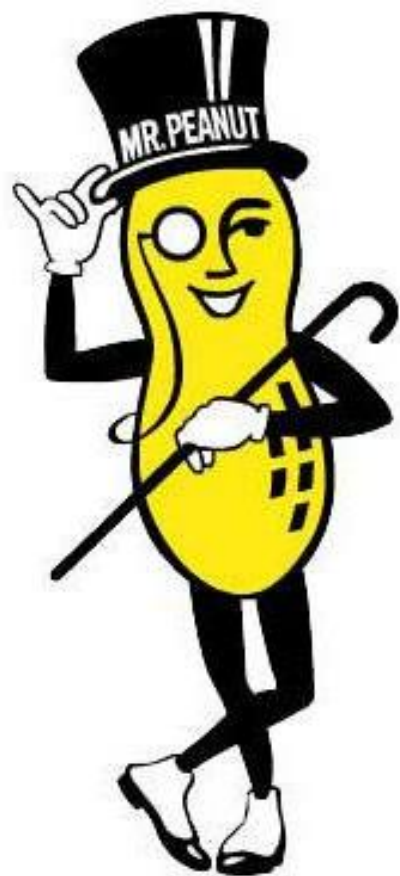
TOP 10 ELEMENTS OF A GREAT TOWN

1. Minimal political divisiveness locally
2. Known movers and shakers
3. Strong public/private partnerships
4. Citizens know the “civic story”
5. Condition of Downtown
6. Nearby research institution
7. Strong community college
8. Creative and experimental public schools
9. Inclusive and open to all groups
10. A collective “big dream

JUST ONE MORE THING . . .







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